

Michigan Association for Purebred Dogs



Michigan Hunting Dog Federation



Position Paper Senate Bills 1404 and 1405

The domestic dog is endowed with many senses that cannot be experienced nor interpreted by the human nervous system. The use of the dog's sense organs in detecting environmental events exceeds that of the human species by profoundly increased perceptual degrees. Some of these environmental events include odor detection of specific molecules such as explosives, drugs, odors given off by malignant tumors of human tissue, and oil pipeline leaks not detected by man-made devices. There is early evidence that some dogs may have geopotential senses that make them aware of their specific location in relation to the equator, the sun, moon, and possibly other visual, auditory or olfactory information.

The training of dogs to indicate specific odors, sounds, vibrations, etc. requires training techniques that are being currently investigated by professional animal behaviorists. The development of these important interactive communications between dog and trainer is only in the early stages of development with profoundly useful results.

The trained search and rescue animals can be one of the most important adjuncts to police detective work, search and rescue work, and many other useful identification functions not yet realized.

The time and resources that results in the trained animal is very long and expensive. The relatively short length of the life of the animal makes it necessary for them to be replaced at relatively frequent intervals. The economic value of the dogs and other animals used in this type of work must be protected from indiscriminate abuse.

If this legislation is placed into law, it should be accompanied with more detailed and reliable regulations that will protect the selection, use and protection from abuse of the animals.

In this modern day of the Animal Rights Agenda, there must be some protective action from the misguided sense of what constitutes the proper use of animals in the service of man. It will be interesting to see if PETA or the HSUS would approve of this use of animals which will endanger their health and even their life!

From our understanding of the goals of the animal rights proponents, the stressful work required of these animals in performing their assigned work, and the ways they are trained, could easily be translated into *cruelty*, certainly more stressful than performance for zoo or circus exhibits. The conditions which the animals so bravely perform their assigned duties, with the innate risk to their health, certainly puts their life at peril for the benefit of humans as well as other animals.

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Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership